

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF MAY 22-24 TO "THE PINES,"
BRANCHVILLE, NEW JERSEY

The rapid succession of geological formations in this delightful region of northwestern New Jersey still makes it possible for any botanist to find much of interest: the limestone ridge on which the hotel stands, with its ledges which shelter rock ferns such as *Asplenium cryptolepis*, *Pellaea atropurpurea* and *Camp-tosorus rhizophyllus*; the high sandstone escarpment to the eastward with purple-flowering clematis, and the intervening gorge with its perpetually cool boulder slopes supporting a rich growth of hemlock, red-fruited elder, and a variety of ferns, among them Goldie's; the dry shale hilltops with a profusion of dwarf *Amelanchier* and *Viburnum*. Even in this often-visited area, surprises are constantly appearing, and we can now report a most unusual sedge, new to New Jersey and to the Torrey Club range. It is a northern species, *Carex Backii* (*C. durifolia* of Britton & Brown's Illustrated Flora), growing in clumps a foot in diameter, with narrow glossy leaves and an inflorescence enveloped by gigantic bracts; its nearest New York outposts are, so far as I have been able to discover, in Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties, and otherwise it approaches us closely only in southwestern Vermont, and on Mount Toby near Amherst, Massachusetts. The colony, growing on the shaded limestone ridge about a hundred yards north of the hotel, consists of only a dozen plants.

In woodlands adjacent to the hotel grounds, one finds abundant colonies of the larger yellow Lady Slipper and two interesting liliaceous plants, *Chamaelirium luteum* and *Melanthium latifolium*, clumps of the low grass-like *Scirpus planifolius*, and occasional patches of *Carex gracilescens* Steud., one of the uncommon segregates of *C. laxiflora*. Among the plants found around an old quarry a half mile south of Branchville were *Sisyrinchium mucronatum* and *Convolvulus spithameus*, the latter not yet in flower.

As a flying squadron of automobiles, we proceeded on Saturday afternoon to Moody's Rock, a somewhat inaccessible retreat among the eroded limestones just to the northwest of

Springdale. This overhanging ledge borders on a bog, somewhat similar to the extensive bog-center of Muckshaw Swamp, lying a short distance to the southwest. Here were pitcher plants, cranberries, *Eriophorum viridi-carinatum*, the curious native buckbean (*Menyanthes trifoliata* var. *minor*), dwarf birch (*Betula pumila*), bog willow (*Salix pedicellaris* var. *hypoglauca*), and numerous plants of *Carex seorsa*, one of the most infrequent members of the *Stellulatae* group. A small pond, lying between the bog and the Springdale road, filled with the golden spikes of *Orontium*, showed also small patches of the yellow Cow-lily (*Nymphozanthus advena*), and its shores were lined by clumps of *Carex diandra*, a northern species of wet calcareous habitat. *Orontium* itself shows the most amazing diversity of habitat; being equally at home in the acidic pine barrens of New Jersey, the dense swamps of Georgia, in shallow streams of the Cumberland Mountains, and in the marly ponds of western New Jersey. Toward its existence the enormously deep roots are probably the most important contributor.

With the owner's permission, we later visited the extensive Muckshaw Swamp, with a few clumps of the showy ladies' slipper (*Cypripedium reginae*) still to be seen, and an abundance of yellow ladies' slippers, both large and small-flowered. Flowers of the small variety, confined to wet swampy places, were occasionally found to have a delicious fragrance. At the margin of one of the numerous embayments we saw again, as we had found it in the previous year, the splendid stand of Goldie's Fern, and the luxuriant plants representing a natural hybrid between this species and the marginal shield fern.

To the list of plants observed in 1935 at the "Pines" by Dr. Moldenke may be added: *Marchantia polymorpha*, *Carex cephalophora*, *C. convoluta*, *C. amphibola*, *C. oligocarpa*, *C. Backii*, *C. laxiculmis*, *C. laxiflora*, *C. histicina*. *Polygonatum pubescens*, *Staphylea trifolia*, *Quercus rubra*, *Krigia amplexicaulis*, *Cardamine pennsylvanica*.

HENRY K. SVENSON

TRIP OF JUNE 20 TO ENGLEWOOD CLIFFS

A small group went through the woods on the Palisades and along the brook to a swamp. Besides the usual plants of such

situations, a number of less common ones were seen, most of them pointed out by Dr. Svenson.

Eupatorium trifoliatum and *E. purpureum* were found together, growing abundantly along the road.

In spite of the constant cutting of wood on the area, such plants as *Adiantum pedatum*, *Mitchella repens* and *Asclepias phytolaccoides* were still in evidence. *Melanthium latifolium* was found on a hillside, *Conopholis americana* under an oak, and along the brook *Athyrium acrostichoides* and *Isoetes Engelmanni*. *Typha angustifolia*, far from its usual salt marsh habitat, was found in a marsh along with *T. latifolia*. Some of the less common sedges seen were *Carex projecta*, *C. prasina*, and *C. laevigata*.

HESTER W. RUSK

NEWS NOTES

Dr. A. H. Reginald Buller, first professor of botany at the University of Manitoba, has resigned the chair which he has held for over thirty years and has been appointed professor emeritus. He proposes to continue his botanical studies in England with headquarters at the Herbarium of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew, Surrey.

At the commencement exercises at Harvard University in June the doctorate of science was conferred on Dr. Elmer D. Merrill, until last year Director of the New York Botanical Garden and now Administrator of the Harvard botanical units. The citation accompanying the degree was "Elmer Drew Merrill, a botanist famed for his investigations of the flora of the Philippines, an administrator marked by his effectiveness in many posts."

In the Twenty-fifth annual report of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Dr. Arthur H. Graves reports on the work being done toward breeding a chestnut that will be of timber value and immune to the chestnut blight. At present there are growing on trial grounds at Hamden, Conn., specimens of American, Spanish, Chinese and Japanese chestnuts with a large variety of hybrids between the various species. Last year seeds were secured of a cross of the American and Chinese species, using